

Docket No.: 050353-0584



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 20277
Kazuhito KATO, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: 4697
Application No.: 10/070,951	:	Group Art Unit: 2629
Filed: March 13, 2002	:	Examiner: NGUYEN, Kimnhung T.
For: DISPLAY APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE	:	

RESPONSE TO NOTICE REGARDING DRAWINGS

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This response is being filed in answer to a Notice Regarding Drawings mailed December 7, 2006.

In the Notice Regarding Drawings of December 7, 2006, the Draftsperson required corrected drawings because of poor line quality and improper shading of Figs. 5-10, 14, and 16-20. In addition, the Draftsperson objected to the use of non-English alphabet characters in Figs. 5-10, 14, and 16-20.

During a telephone call with Draftsperson Clifton Randall on December 12, 2006, the undersigned explained that the shading was purposely darkened and the lines were purposely blurred in certain figures, as explained in the specification. The undersigned further explained that the Japanese characters used in Figs. 5-10, 14, and 16-20 merely designated locations on the maps shown in those figures, and were not important to the claimed invention. Draftsperson

Randall indicated that filing a letter in response to the objection including the above explanation should be sufficient to overcome the drawing objection. In accordance with the Draftsperson's recommendation, this letter is being filed.

As explained in the specification, the figures objected are photographs of the display of the present invention. Road maps are shown in the display and Japanese characters are used to designate the locations on the maps, as this application was originally filed in Japan. The specific names of the locations designated on the maps of the objected to drawings are not a critical or essential feature of the claimed display apparatus. As is well known, road maps illustrate different types of roads and features using different shading and line thicknesses. In addition, according to the present specification, different portions of the maps are deliberately out of focus or displayed at a different contrast or brightness. For example, as described on pages 3 to 5 of the present specification, Fig. 6 depicts a display when a contrast of the road map data image is changed. Fig. 7 shows road map image data when a brightness of the road map image data is varied. Fig. 8A is a photograph of a display when the focus of the road map data image is varied. A photograph of when the saturation of a region of the road map image data is lowered is shown in Fig. 8C. In Fig. 14, the road map image data is processed in a simplification process.

In light of the disclosure in the present written description and the above-explanation, it is respectfully submitted that Drawing Corrections are not necessary, and in fact, the asserted required corrections would actually be contrary to the aspects of the claimed invention illustrated by the drawings.

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If there are any questions regarding these remarks or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Please recognize our Customer No. 20277
as our correspondence address.**